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The Onlooker

"Twa Cronies Sleepin' Thegither"

John Walker, lately back from Aberdeen w' his insides gey mendit, by Braw Scottish surgeons and his pouch filled w' heather for his fellow exiles, brought the matter up at the Scottish Thistle Club, and Master Higgins, a mon o' unco' skill and leetery research, volunteered to be the "Old Mortality" to investigate the report. It was about the neglected graves of two Scottish worthies in Nuuanua cemetery, the long silent occupants having a tombstone in common. Intercepted by "The Onlooker" before he had time to prepare his report, Mr. Higgins related the following interesting facts:

"The tombstone is considerably shifted out of its original position and needs attention. It shows that Alexander Adams was born in Arbroath in 1789, and Andrew Auld in Linlithgow in 1799. Upon the stone is graved this legend:

"Twa cronies frae the land o' heather
Sleepin' here in death thegither."
A young woman came along watering graves, who, in answer to questions, said she did not know very much about the history of Adams and Auld. Still she told me something. The late William Auld, once superintendent of the Insane Asylum and a high Mason, as well as prominent in

Concrete Vs. Wood

A friend of mine, now in a white-handed profession, but who was once and again a horny-handed son of toil in skilled lines, has been giving me his views on the subject of bridges. Everybody who knows anything about it will agree with his opinion that the building of wooden bridges on highways at this date is folly. This is an age of steel and concrete, and it is a waste of money to put perishable wood into bridges and culverts.

"There should have been some way to prevent the supervisors," said my friend, "from making that bridge over Nuuanu stream, at the junction of Queen and King streets, of wooden planks and upon wooden piles. It is ridiculous to lay bitulithic pavement on top of such a temporary structure. Unless the lumber is especially well seasoned, the life of the substructure of the bridge will be not more than

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threads. What a criminal waste of property is this, all for lack of the preventive application of a few pounds of paint. There are other bridges in the same case no doubt, as well as other structures owned by the public—for instance, the capitol grounds fence, where the climate has been permitted to work irreparable loss.

"In this connection, the harbor

Unlawful Taxing of School Children

Action has been taken by the San Francisco board of education to end an abuse in that city which was formerly rife in the schools of Honolulu. That is, the exaction of contributions of money from the pupils for fads and folderols which might take the fancy of the teachers. In some cases the object for which the dime or nickel was levied never materialized, but there was no refunding of the money, wherever it went. Perhaps the practice is still in vogue to some extent here, and if so the educational department should squelch it. It is not only annoying but illegal. If it

still exists anywhere in our schools, it would be well to put in force a regulation like that which has been adopted by the San Francisco board, which reads as follows:

Teachers are prohibited from collecting or soliciting any contributions of any sort from pupils for any purpose whatever, and it shall be the duty of the board persistently to deny any and all requests which directly or indirectly have for their object the collection of funds or the advertising of anything whatsoever of this nature.

75,000 OREGON CHILDREN TILLING STATE'S SOIL

Prizes to the Value of \$20,000 Stir Youngsters of State to Take Greater Interest in Advancing Agriculture

PORTLAND, Ore., Sept. 20.—Early six months ago a committee of members of the Oregon State Bankers Association met in Portland to discuss plans for creating greater interest in agricultural and industrial work in the public schools, says the Oregonian. Today, prizes to the value of \$20,000 have been promised, already there are approximately 75,000 school children who will have exhibits, or three-fifths of all the children in Oregon, and 88 children's fairs have been reported.

In addition, Prof. C. H. Lane, assistant in agricultural education at Washington, D. C., whose visit to Oregon last May was a mark of recognition of the movement by the national government, awarded this State a medal of praise beyond all others.

"Oregon," he said, "has started this

work on a broader scale than any other State. I have never found a State in which bankers, breeders and business men have given industrial education such liberal support at the outset. The next step should be to make this work an integral part of the public school system."

The committee at the outset adopted what has come to be known as the Yamhill county plan. This met with approval all through the State, and has encouraged children to grow gardens and to make useful articles, by offering prizes and awards at local, county and State competitions for boys and girls.

As a start, the Bankers Association placed at the disposal of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction Alderman \$800, for the salary and expenses of a field manager and for the salary of a stenographer until the close of the State fair, which is to be held in Salem.

Mr. Alderman appointed C. C. Thompson field manager. Mr. Thompson visited all the counties in order to enlist local aid, and cooperation, to direct the organization of contests and to assist in arranging local prize lists. N. C. Maris was appointed by the Union stock yards to work in connection with Superintendent Alderman. These two men already have visited 30 counties since field work started, February 1.

Every assistance was given by the Oregon Agricultural College, which placed the field organizers on its extension staff. With the first of the year a start was made of compiling the premium list for the state fair. The response by farmers and men interested in the produce of the soil especially, but also by business men in general, was generous. Animals and commodities for children's prizes already have been donated to the value of \$2500, while the State Fair board supplemented this amount by a donation of \$1000 cash.

All the first prizes and some of the second prizes have been specially donated, among them being prize Shetland ponies, dogs, calves, sheep, pigs and chickens. Furniture and silverware are among the other special prizes donated. The second, third, fourth and fifth prizes, except where otherwise specified, are of the value of \$5, \$5, \$4 and \$3 respectively.

In the agricultural section prizes are given for chickens, ducks, pigs, corn, melons, pumpkins, potatoes, cabbages, onions, celery, grain, bread, canned fruit and vegetables, jelly, sweet peas and asters. In the industrial division awards are given for a bird house, a piece of furniture, a labor-saving device, hand and machine-made aprons, and darning.

JAPANESE LINES VIA PANAMA

Concerning the inauguration or otherwise of an Atlantic service from Japan after the completion of the Panama Canal, nothing has yet been decided by the Government. Leading members of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha desire the inauguration of such a service, and advocate the carrying out of the necessary investigations, while those of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha conjecture such a service to be unnecessary, and are of the opinion that if cargo is transhipped at San Francisco to American coasting vessels shippers using their vessels will be exempted from the burden of paying Canal dues.

"How do you pronounce 'butterine'?" asked the grocer's new clerk. "The last syllable is always silent," replied the grocer.—St. Paul Pioneer Press.

MIDDLE STATES ONCE UNDER SEA

It has been shown by geologists that at various times during the more recent eras of the earth's history great seas, diverse in size and form, existed in regions now lying in the interior of the continent of North America. These great seas, some of which had outlets to the ocean or the Arctic and others were connected by straits with the Atlantic, or possibly opened out into a great gulf to the south, were constantly changing in accordance with the deep-seated earth movements of the continent. Complicated, and always varied warping of the earth's crust, combined with downward or upward thrusts of the land masses, accomplished sweeping changes in the geography, sometimes burying large regions below sea level and leaving only remnants—skeletons, of the land, as it were—of large portions of the old continent surrounding interior seas.

Other times the land rose, more warping took place, the seas were banished from the interior regions, and the continent stood larger, and higher even, than it does now. Even at the present moment large stretches of our coasts are subsiding below sea level.

The history of this earth movement and the conditions surrounding the different invasions of the sea into the continent are revealed by the study of the rock strata and their fossils. As the animal and plant life has changed from period to period, differing in each of the inland seas, it is particularly to the study of these fossils that geologists owe their knowledge of the time relations of each period in geological chronology. The fossils show the climatic conditions, the nature of the shores, and the depth to the oceanic connections.

An important addition to our knowledge of one of the very ancient seas—the Onondaga—has been made by E. M. Kindle, in a paper just published by the United States Geological Survey as Bulletin 508. This sea, which is very far from being one of the most ancient of the Paleozoic, though it dates back probably more than a hundred times as far as the great Ice Age, is known as the Onondaga, because the criteria revealing and characterizing it were first brought to light in Onondaga County, in northern New York. Mr. Kindle shows that the peculiar forms inhabiting the Onondaga sea extended through Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia for hundreds of miles in the waters of a sea whose eastern shore line was not far west of the site where the Blue Ridge now stands. From southwestern Virginia this shore line appears to have trended westward not far from the Kentucky-Tennessee line as far as the present valley of Tennessee River and at some point was connected with the great inland sea covering the present Mississippi Valley. The Onondaga waters were warm, as is shown by the presence of corals and other tropical or subtropical types of sea life. The technical descriptions of these fossils compose the main part of the bulletin, which is of interest especially to those concerned with the study of the extinct molluscan faunas.

The great basin occupied by the Onondaga sea was later warped and greatly changed and its eastern portions were filled to a thickness of 5000 to 10,000 feet by sediment, mostly derived from the elevated but comparatively narrow remnants of the continent lying east of the present Blue Ridge. If these sediments were piled upon a level plain they would form a mountain range equaling in height and extent the Sierra Nevada of California.

Bulletin 508, which is technical in nature, may be had free on application to the Director of the U. S. Geological Survey, Washington, D. C.

WOMEN OUTLIVE MEN

The greater longevity of women than of men is shown by recent French insurance statistics, the advantage on the feminine side being almost one third.

Thus the average age at death of female annuitants on one company's books is 70, while for men it is barely 50. Another company has several centenarians, all women, on its books. These annuitants have already received their money back five or six times over. The company is thinking of revising its tariff, making the scale for women much higher.

A distinguished doctor, when asked to account for women's longer lives, said:

"Men live much harder and smoke and drink too much, even though they rarely work too much. Women are wiser and think of the future, rarely smoke and drink one-tenth as much, while their preoccupations and moral sufferings are much less intense."

"At 40 a woman is in the plenitude of her physical powers, while a man at the same age has probably contracted organic weaknesses which will shorten life."—New York Times.

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